



# The ISC Newsletter

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Editor  
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## INTERVIEW

### DOES A WILDMAN EXIST IN THE CAUCASUS? A SOVIET INVESTIGATOR GIVES HER VIEWS



Marie-Jeanne Koffmann.

Marie-Jean Koffmann is considered the leading field investigator of *almas* (wildman) reports in the Soviet Union. Originally from France, she obtained an M.D. at Moscow University in 1941, and went on to surgical practice in Moscow hospitals. She conducted research through the Institute of Morphology and Pathology of the USSR Academy of Medicine.

Dr. Koffmann served in the Red Army during World War II, attaining the rank of captain. She fought in the Battle of Moscow, as well as in the Battle of the Caucasus, during which she was second-in-command of a battalion of mountain rangers. She received seven Soviet battle citations.

After the war, Dr. Koffmann returned to her main avocation: mountaineering. She participated in the first Soviet expeditions to previously unexplored mountain ranges, including the Pamirs in 1947. In 1958, she was

elected to the Society of Geography of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

For the past 30 years, Dr. Koffmann has been living and working in the field, obtaining and studying evidence of the supposed Soviet wildman. She has done this mainly in the Caucasus and the Pamirs.

Dr. Koffmann was elected an Honorary Member of the International Society of Cryptozoology upon its founding in 1982. The opinions she expresses below, however, are her own, and do not reflect any policies or positions established by the Society. She was interviewed in Paris by *Newsletter* editor J. Richard Greenwell. The *Newsletter* is indebted to Paul H. LeBlond, an ISC Board member from Canada, who is fluent in both French and English and who served as interpreter during the interview.

**Greenwell:** What progress has been made since the death of Boris Porshnev on wildman research--what you in the Soviet Union call hominology--particularly concerning your own investigations into the wildman of the Caucasus?

**Koffmann:** Nothing significant or decisive has been added to the resolution of the problem since Porshnev's death. However, the number of investigators in the field has increased, and we have obtained, for the first time, casts and photographs of footprints.

**Greenwell:** Have these footprints been found in areas where there is a certain degree of



confidence that they could not have been hoaxed? Are the tracks morphologically consistent with what we know of bipedal morphology and biomechanics?

Koffmann: It is absolutely excluded that these footprints could have been hoaxed. They have been found, for example, 60 kilometers from the nearest village, in winter conditions. They were in forested areas in very deep valleys which are not frequented by humans. The tracks are anatomically very similar to human footprints, which is not surprising, considering the lineage which led to man has been bipedal for several million years. There are not 36 different ways of making bipedal primate feet. Apart from some minor details, the tracks look very much like human footprints.

It is also interesting to note that a Neanderthal skeleton found in the Crimea, about 500 kilometers from this area of the Caucasus, has an almost intact bone structure of the feet. There is only one phalanx missing. And these feet are also essentially human-looking.

Greenwell: Well, Neanderthal was, of course, a human, at least in Western anthropology. He was Homo sapiens neanderthalensis, a subspecies of Homo sapiens.

Koffmann: There are various diverse opinions on the affinities of Neanderthal Man. Not everyone agrees that Neanderthal was really a subspecies of Homo sapiens. Even in the Soviet Union not everyone agrees.

Greenwell: In 1974, Dr. Porshnev published a paper in Current Anthropology in which he named the supposed living form of Neanderthal Troglodytes recens. He did not include Neanderthal in the genus Homo at all. Furthermore, he proposed that this species has survived to the present time in the form of the Soviet wildman. Do you concur

with that assessment, or was that basically Porshnev's opinion only?

Koffmann: Since I am a doctor of medicine and a surgeon, and not really an anthropologist, and have become an expert on this subject only through fieldwork, I cannot really express an opinion on whether Neanderthal should be included in the genus Homo or not. Many books written by reputed authorities affirm one opinion, and other experts affirm a different opinion.

Greenwell: Even so, I assume that you consider the main candidate for the wildman of the Caucasus to be Neanderthal Man, regardless of what Neanderthal actually is?

Koffmann: Not necessarily. I think that one must be very careful in a field such as this. There is no material proof of this equivalence.

Greenwell: Well, let me rephrase the question. Do you use the possibility as a working hypothesis? You mentioned that Neanderthal fossil found just a few hundred miles away....

Koffmann: I don't need any such hypothesis in order to conduct my fieldwork in search of wildman evidence.

Greenwell: Then why did you mention the similarity with the fossil foot bones found a few hundred miles away?

Koffmann: Because I have seen those fossil bones, and I was merely using them as an example of similar evolution in the anatomical foot structure of primate bipeds. The fossils are in the Museum of Anthropology in Moscow. There is a striking similarity between the shape of the wildman footprints we have found and the foot structure of that fossil Neanderthal.

Greenwell: That leads me to a new question. What interest and support have you been receiving

from scientific institutions in the Soviet Union, such as the universities, the Institute of Anthropology, the Academy of Sciences, and academicians in general? What has been their reaction or attitude towards the question of a possible wildman, and what do they think of your evidence?

Koffmann: First of all, the USSR is the only country which ever formed an official commission to study this problem. Unfortunately, the commission, established within the Soviet Academy of Sciences, was created too early. At the time, little was known. The absence of material proofs in the first few years led to the eventual disintegration of this body, which is now essentially defunct. It was never officially dissolved; it just ceased to function. In the last 20 years, all such research has been carried out by interested individuals without any material, moral, or financial support.

I think that it takes about a generation before people accept a new idea. New ideas are not always accepted simply on the rigor of their logic. People have to become used to them.

Greenwell: Do I interpret that to mean that many or most academicians in the USSR do not take this problem very seriously?

Koffmann: Yes, but I think that the situation is improving. I recently talked to a number of academicians in Moscow who used to reject these ideas offhand, but now they are more sympathetic.

Greenwell: Do they look at the evidence, though? Do they actually examine the footprint casts and give an opinion?

Koffmann: Yes, indeed, they have looked at the evidence. They have looked at the casts and photographs, and this has had a considerable influence on professional anthropologists.



One example is that of Dr. Danielova, who is an internationally reputed expert on the evolution of the hand and foot. It is precisely the recently acquired footprints and photographs of footprints which allowed me to conduct this dialogue with the scientific authorities from a position of greater strength than before.

Greenwell: What first got you interested or involved in this question of unknown hominoids? What motivated you, and when did it happen?

Koffmann: It was in 1957, when I first saw an article in the Soviet press entitled "What Is the Snowman?" It told about some of the first expeditions. The article consisted of comments by eight mountain climbers whom I knew, half of whom thought the whole idea was impossible. The other half thought that there might be something to the reports.

Greenwell: These were Soviet mountaineers?

Koffmann: Yes. I could not imagine what a "Snowman" could be, but I found it really fascinating. Since I frequently participated in international mountaineering expeditions, I was given a copy of the article by Pierre Borbet on the footprint he himself had found in the Himalayas.

Greenwell: Eventually, there was a realization, I suppose, that there were reports of such creatures in other parts of the world, such as China, and the United States and Canada. When did this happen, this global perception?

Koffmann: I participated in a conference in Moscow where a member of the British Mount Everest expedition came and talked. I had hoped that I would also hear about the Yeti. It was in the late 1950's. During a coffee break, I heard, quite by chance, somebody talking

about it. It was Porshnev, whom I then met. I suppose our collaboration began at that stage.

Also, at about that time, Bernard Heuvelmans' book On the Track of Unknown Animals became available in the Soviet Union, and in it were reports of other unknown bipeds in other parts of the world. By 1958, I was also in contact with Americans such as Tom Slick and Peter Byrne, who visited me in Moscow. Also, Ivan T. Sanderson published articles on those first Bigfoot reports by the California road construction crews. I find it interesting that Sanderson was as surprised and somewhat struck by skepticism by the appearance of Sasquatch in North America, as I was by similar appearances in the Caucasus.

Greenwell: I'm going to move to another area now. What are your thoughts on the significance--or the impact--of the discovery of a subhuman or semihuman hominid? What sort of philosophical aspects and implications are brought to bear on this question?

Koffmann: I think that the impact will be enormous. It will open new horizons to old dogmas in anthropology, medicine, psychology, sociology, and other disciplines. It will perhaps answer most of the questions that we have asked ourselves about our origins.

Greenwell: In a physical sense, or also in a moral and philosophical sense?

Koffmann: Philosophical, moral, and physical. One of the most fascinating aspects is the interpretation that Homo sapiens gives of this wild double of himself, about which he has always known, in some way.

Greenwell: Can you elaborate on that?

Koffmann: This double, who is a kind of shadow of man. He has been watching man, always has,

from the depths of the forest. This double is like a caricature of man--no longer an animal, but yet not quite human.

Greenwell: And what would be the moral implications if we were to capture some of these, in terms of their "human rights"? Do you think they would receive some sort of human-type protection? Would it be a situation where they could be exhibited in a zoo, or would they be treated more like an aboriginal or native peoples in need of protection as human beings?

Koffmann: Because of the close evolutionary relationship between us, they should be treated as humans. However, the concept of treatment as an equal is not necessarily a fortunate one, since we humans treat fellow humans as equals in ways which are not always very benevolent.

Greenwell: In biomedicine, there is great difficulty in finding animals that serve as physiological models for experimentation. Animals are used in some very critical areas of biomedical research, and, sadly, we rely on many primates. This creature would presumably be so close to us that it would make an excellent human model for testing experimental drugs, for example. But that is only addressing the medical aspects, not the moral aspects.

Koffmann: We who are doing research on these wildmen hope from the deepest parts of our hearts that, if they are discovered, they will not be treated like chimpanzees and other laboratory animals. But knowing what kind of use people have made of other scientific discoveries, one can't guarantee that these animals will be treated any differently from chimpanzees and other species.

Greenwell: Of course, a lot will depend on the final assessment, if and when one is discovered, as to exactly where it



fits evolutionarily. That is, how close to Homo sapiens it really is.

Koffmann: I think it will be unlikely that it will be seen as H. sapiens. Nevertheless I hope that, even if it is not considered H. sapiens, it will be protected in the Soviet Union and elsewhere. Protection is now extended to many species, many of which have been saved from extinction.

Greenwell: What happens now? What plans do you have for continuing your work in trying to prove that these entities exist in the Caucasus?

Koffmann: I plan to continue my work, but, frankly, without much hope of success.

Greenwell: Why without much hope of success? Is there any way that you can change the situation so the probability of success would increase?

Koffmann: Without material, technical, and financial support from the scientific community, I think that there is no way of getting much further than we already are at present. I think that the support of the scientific community, both in the Soviet Union and the United States, is absolutely essential.

'The existence of our Society and the publication of the journal Cryptozoology may play an important role in this respect. □

## REPORT: MARYLAND MEETING

The Society's 7th Annual Membership Meeting was held on Saturday, May 14, 1988, at the University of Maryland, College Park, and attracted members from numerous Eastern states.

The meeting was organized by ISC Board member Eugenie Clark, a faculty member in the Department of Zoology, which hosted the event. Because of room scheduling conflicts (it was exam finals week at the University of Maryland), the traditional members' social hour prior to the meeting could not be held, but social interaction took place during the coffee breaks, lunch, and evening dinner.



Eugenie Clark with head from a 'cookie cutter' shark.

The first speaker was Dr. Clark herself, an internationally recognized marine biologist and educator, perhaps best known for her work on the physiology and behavior of sharks. Entitled "Searching for Cryptic Deep Sea Sharks," her wide-ranging talk, which made use of both slides and movie film, included her recent dives in the Atlantic Ocean in the submersible Piscus.

Of particular interest was her underwater observations--the first ever--of the "cookie cutter" shark, Dalatias licha, of which she obtained the very first film footage.

For a long time, marine animals had been observed with 4-5 inch chunks of flesh removed from their bodies--as if by a cookie cutter. These became known as "crater wounds." Eventually, in the 1970's, it was found that these mysterious wounds were made by the Dalatias sharks, of which there are several species. Armed with very powerful tongues, they create a vacuum during a bite, and rotate their bodies rapidly to forcefully "cut out" a chunk of tissue.

Dr. Clark and her associates filmed cookie cutter sharks off of Bermuda and, for the first time, found the species off Gran Cayman Island, at a depth of between 3,000 and 4,000 feet.

She also discussed goblin sharks, which have yet to be seen alive.

Moving to the Gulf of California, Dr. Clark then discussed her dives with whale sharks, mature females of which are believed to grow to over 50 feet, and she showed an underwater photograph of one particular specimen which may represent a size record. Her talk also covered octopus, as well as some other marine enigmas and curiosities.

The second speaker was Robert L. Downing, a retired U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service research biologist who has been the principal investigator of reports of cougars, Felis concolor--also known as panthers or pumas--in the Eastern United States.

His talk, entitled "Techniques Used in the Search for Eastern Cougars," reviewed and updated his efforts to find positive evidence of established populations of cougars north of Florida, where they are known to exist. He stated that, while most eyewitnesses are probably mistaken, some sightings made by well-trained observers under ideal conditions cannot be discredited. So far, however, he has not been able to prove that breeding cougar populations exist in the East.

Mr. Downing suggested that an economical way to determine the least likely places to find





Robert Downing.

cougars is to analyze highway traffic patterns, under the assumption that cougars everywhere are as susceptible to being struck by cars or trucks as are the known Florida individuals. In Florida, several animals are killed every year out of a minuscule population of about 30, suggesting that an area with much vehicular traffic but no confirmed cougar road kills is unlikely to contain cougars.

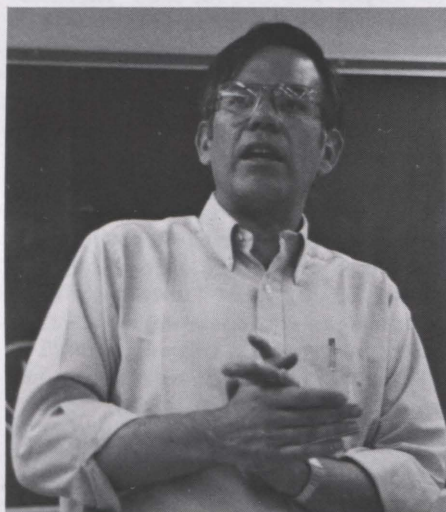
In concluding, Mr. Downing proposed a nationwide study of the relationship between the volume, timing, speed, and distribution of traffic, the distribution and density of cougars, and the frequency of road kills. Such a study might predict the frequency of road kills if cougars are present, and the probability of cougars being absent if no kills are recorded. Mr. Downing authored a major article on the reported Eastern cougars in Vol. 3 of Cryptozoology (1984).

The next speaker was Daniel Taylor-Ide, director of the Woodlands Mountain Institute in West Virginia. Dr. Taylor-Ide, who has spent much of his life in Nepal, now directs a human

resources/park development program near Mount Everest. He has long been interested in Yeti reports--as a skeptic (see his Comment on Wooldridge, pp. 132-134, Cryptozoology, Vol. 6, 1987).

In his illustrated talk, entitled "Do Ursid Characteristics Bear on the Yeti Question?," Dr. Taylor-Ide reviewed his field findings in relation to the Himalayan black bear, Ursus thibetanus, also known as Selenarctos thibetanus. He believes that both sightings and footprint finds of this ursid have propagated belief in the Yeti myth.

Dr. Taylor-Ide showed how he



Daniel Taylor-Ide.

and his team, in using the standard cryptozoological method of drawing on native knowledge of local fauna, uncovered reports of two distinct types of bears, although zoology only recognizes one species.

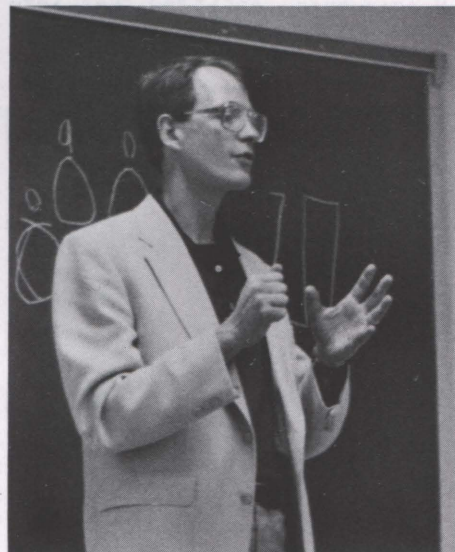
"Ground bears" match closely with the scientifically known black bear. "Tree bears," however, are smaller, arboreal, less aggressive, and have a claw configuration in which the inner claw drops to suggest a hallux. This results, he believes, in "thumb-like" imprints in the snow, giving rise to further Yeti reports.

Although Dr. Taylor-Ide and his associates at first thought they might be dealing with a distinct species of bear (see articles in the Spring, 1984, and Spring, 1985, newsletters), and although they have not yet reached a definitive conclusion, they now suspect that the "tree bear" is the juvenile form of the "ground bear"--both representing the known Asiatic black bear.

Dr. Taylor-Ide hopes to uncover further field evidence during his continuing habitat preservation and management development activities in Nepal.

The fourth speaker of the day was Joseph W. Zarzynski, director of the Lake Champlain Phenomena Investigation (LCPI), which conducts ongoing fieldwork at Lake Champlain every summer in search of evidence for Champ, the lake's supposed Nessie-like animals. ISC members will find his annual field reports in Cryptozoology.

His illustrated talk, entitled "Applying Modern Technology to Monster Hunting at Lake Champlain," reviewed new sub-surface approaches to lake monster hunting. In 1987, LCPI began using a Klein 500 kHz side-scan sonar, donated by Klein Associates, Inc., and a



Joseph Zarzynski.



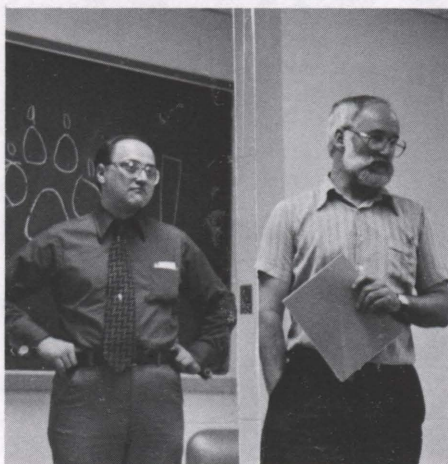
miniRover Mark II underwater robot, called a ROV (remotely operated vehicle), donated by Kaselaan & D'Angelo Associates, Inc.

One of Mr. Zarzynski's strategies consists of sonar surveying parts of the lake bottom in an attempt to locate targets which may represent Champ carcasses. Such targets could then be inspected by scuba divers or the ROV, which is equipped with underwater video and 35mm cameras, as well as a manipulator arm for retrievals. With a lake length of 109 miles, this task may be more formidable than at first imagined.

Two LCPI associates, John Becker and Ted Straiton, have also tested, for future deployment, a video digitizer monitoring system which scans a small area of lake surface using a camera, a monitor, a recorder, and a digitizer. The intent is to activate the recorder whenever a large passing object triggers the system.

Mr. Zarzynski's presentation also reviewed some of the Champlain fieldwork conducted by Richard Smith, involving underwater video and sonar surveying.

The next presentation was by Malcolm J. Bowman and Gary S. Mangiacopra, entitled "Sea Serpent Sightings off the Eastern Seaboard Since the U.S. Civil



Gary Mangiacopra (left) and Malcolm Bowman.

War." Dr. Bowman, an oceanographer at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, has been collaborating with Mr. Mangiacopra, a graduate student in biology, in the collection and analysis of historical "sea serpent" reports.

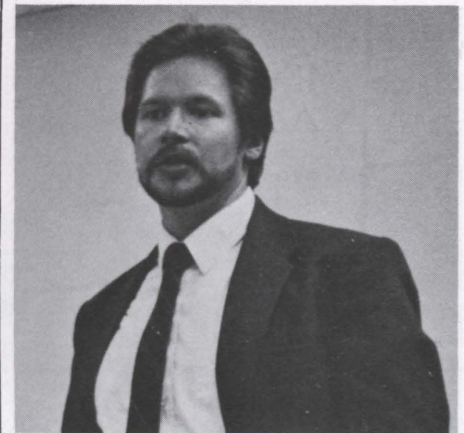
After introductory remarks by Dr. Bowman, Mr. Mangiacopra reviewed the sources he has pursued and the methods he has undertaken to obtain and document hundreds of previously unknown reports. To do this, he has had to search through the microfilm morgues of many newspapers, some of which no longer exist. It is a long, tedious task involving much patience, as well as expense, but it brings to light new historical information on "sea serpents" which might otherwise be lost to cryptozoology.

Mr. Mangiacopra also described his interviews with "old-timers" he had located after following up on old newspaper reports from early in the century. Mr. Mangiacopra found that, after many decades, such witnesses, if they were willing to discuss the matter at all, were as adamant about their sightings as when they originally reported them.

Mr. Mangiacopra and Dr. Bowman hope to eventually condense much of the information collected into a publishable article, and perhaps even a book.

The last speaker of the day was Michael A. Frizzell, who spoke on "A Chronology of Significant Chessie Events in Chesapeake Bay." Chessie is a generic name for the reported "sea serpents" of that vast estuary, which includes the Potomac River.

Mr. Frizzell, who has been investigating Chessie reports for many years, reviewed some of the major cases, in particular the Frew videotape obtained in 1982. This footage was reviewed by a group at the Smithsonian



Michael Frizzell.

Institution in August of that year, with inconclusive results (see Spring, 1983, newsletter).

A composite of Chessie based on many eyewitness reports was presented by Mr. Frizzell: a serpentine body about 25-35 feet in length, the whole of which is generally uniformly dark in color. The animal's streamlined, tapered body is said to be no more than a foot in diameter, devoid of visible fins or appendages, and possessing an ovoid, (American) football-shaped head. It reportedly undulates vertically at the surface, indicating a mammalian ancestry.

Even so, Mr. Frizzell discussed the "giant snake" hypothesis, in view of the fact that 19th century sailing ships in Chesapeake Bay are said to have carried anacondas in order to reduce on-board rat populations. However, Chessie's reported large size, and, more importantly, the fact that anacondas are strictly tropical swamp snakes and would probably not survive in cold, salty marine waters, makes this possibility quite unlikely.

Questions from the floor followed each talk, resulting in many other cryptozoological issues being raised. Attending members felt that it was a day well spent, and thanks go to Eugenie Clark for her efforts on behalf of the Society. □



## SASQUATCH SYMPOSIUM PLANNED

Initial plans are being made for the 1989 Membership Meeting of the Society. Because of the success of the 1987 Meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland, which was dedicated to symposia on Nessie and cryptozoological cats, the Board of Directors has decided to have the Society sponsor a similar symposium dedicated to the Sasquatch (Bigfoot) problem.

As envisioned at this time, the symposium will be held during a weekend in June, either at the University of Calgary, in Canada, or Washington State University, in Pullman. The symposium might also address reported similar hominoids in other parts of the world.

It is hoped that the symposium will attract the principal investigators, field workers, and scholars on this topic, and that a healthy exchange of information and ideas will ensue. It has been a decade since the University of British Columbia hosted a similar conference, which resulted in the publication of two volumes (see book review sections in Vols. 1 and 5 of *Cryptozoology*). The new symposium could serve as a means of updating our understanding of the problem.

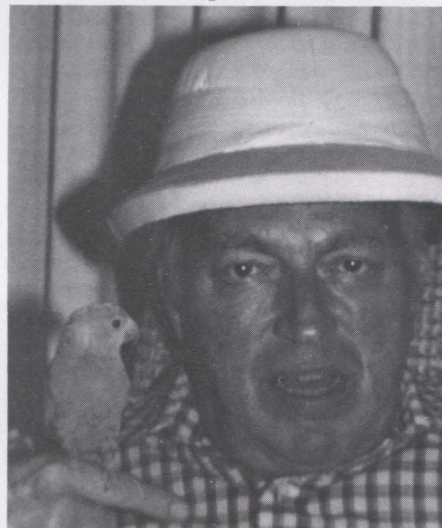
The question of Sasquatch and similar reported creatures probably represents the most controversial area within cryptozoology. As in the past, the Society, as a corporate, scientific body, can take no position on the authenticity of such reports or on the existence of such creatures. It merely provides a forum for scientific discussion of the topic.

Further details on the proposed symposium will appear in the forthcoming Autumn and Winter newsletters. □

## WOOD, GROVES JOIN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On the evening of September 3, 1939, the day Britain declared war on Germany, Winston Churchill was appointed First Lord of the Admiralty, a job he had held almost 25 years before, and the following message was flashed to all Royal Navy ships and elements around the world: "Winston's Back!" The present circumstances are perhaps less awesome, but we would like to send our own little announcement to all ISC members: Woody's back--back on the Board of Directors of the Society.

Forrest Glenn Wood (better known as F. G. Wood in the scientific literature) was a founding Board member of the Society when it was formed in 1982, but he stepped down in 1986 due to pressures of other work. He has now been elected to replace Joseph Gennaro of New York University, who has stepped down from the Board. Colin P. Groves, a member of the Editorial Board of *Cryptozoology* since 1985, has also been elected to the Board of Directors, replacing Philippe Janvier, of the French National Museum of Natural History.



"Have Parrot, will Travel" is the title we have bestowed upon this recent photo of Forrest Wood. Note: this is not an official U.S. Navy photo.

A more complete professional biography on Mr. Wood appears in the Spring, 1983, newsletter. Briefly, following service in World War II, graduate study in ichthyology, and a stint with the American Museum of Natural History's marine laboratory on Bimini, he became affiliated with Marineland of Florida and the Marineland Research Laboratory in the 1950's, joining the U.S. Navy's marine mammal program in 1963.

He has since served in that program in various capacities, and is currently staff scientist emeritus in the Biosciences Department of the U.S. Naval Ocean Systems Center, in San Diego. Mr. Wood has had wide experience in both marine mammal research and public education. He also serves as a consultant to the federal Marine Mammal Commission.



"I do not photograph well," Colin Groves told us, and we can believe it. This picture was taken while Dr. Groves examined the inside of a wombat burrow; the flash failed to work.

A more complete biography on Dr. Groves appears in the Winter, 1985, newsletter. Briefly, he is a mammalogist recognized for his work on various animal groups, including primates, equids, rhinoceroses, deer, and felids. He is the author of over 100 research papers and three books, including *Gorillas* (1970).

Dr. Groves was previously affiliated with the University of California at Berkeley, and Cambridge University, England. Since 1974, he has been on the faculty of the Department of Prehistory and Anthropology at the Australian National University, in Canberra. □



## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

We are pleased to report that, as of July 1, 1988, the Society's Secretariat began operating in new quarters.

The move, although inconvenient at the time, has resulted in additional breathing space and elbow room. The ISC Secretariat is not a public office, but all members are welcome to visit by prior appointment. Those interested should call (602) 884-8369, preferably in the afternoon. After we are completely settled in and operating smoothly, we shall run some photos in a future newsletter.

As for the new Swan computer, this is now fully functional, and is helping make the Secretariat's work more efficient. The unexpected \$1,000 expense for the new computer represents an added burden to the Society's 1988 budget (on top of the modest rent increase due to the sudden need to relocate). Many members came through with donations following our plea in the Winter, 1987, newsletter, and about half the cost of the computer was thus covered.

However, many donors, when renewing for 1988, failed to indicate whether or not the donation should be earmarked for the "computer fund." Our plan was to list all donors who had contributed towards the computer in a special newsletter notice, but we now fear that some donors (those who forgot to indicate "for computer fund") may be thus inadvertently omitted from such a listing.

What to do? After some reflection, we have decided to simply include all 1988 donors in our annual listing of Sustaining Members to appear in the Winter, 1988, newsletter. This time, however, we shall break the listing down into three categories: those who donated up to \$24, those who donated from

\$25 to \$99, and those who donated \$100 or more.

How does one become a Sustaining Member of the Society? It's simple. One merely adds a certain amount to the minimum \$25 membership fee when either joining or renewing--or the donation may be sent in separately at any time of the year. The minimum amount members donate is usually \$5 or \$10, but many members are even more generous.

During 1988, we have a special incentive. All Sustaining Members who contribute at least double the \$25 membership fee (that is, a total of at least \$50) will receive a handsome 1989 pocket calendar with the Society's name and address embossed on the cover. It's a small way of expressing our appreciation. Those 1988 members who have already sent in a minimum of \$50 have been mailed their pocket calendars.

Those who would like to be included have until February 28, 1989, to do so (see the separate note in this issue). They should simply mail in the difference between what they have already paid and \$50. For example, if a member sent in \$35 earlier this year (representing the \$25 membership and a \$10 donation), he or she should send in an additional \$15 to receive the calendar.

We also wish to point out to all members that, for the first time ever, dues will finally be increasing in 1989, to \$30 a year (or \$35 for joint members). The cost of buying back issues is going up correspondingly. Although these new rates take effect January 1, 1989, the old rates for buying back issues will remain in effect for all current members through February 28, 1989, the end of the Society's fiscal year (see the separate note in this issue).

Thus, considerable savings can be made by purchasing back ISC publications right away.

Most members will have noticed the continued delay in producing the publications. This year, we plead guilty because of the relocation and computer problems. We will make efforts to get on a better schedule in 1989. The Autumn, 1988, newsletter should appear soon after the new year, and the Winter, 1988, newsletter and the 1988 journal should come out about March, 1989 (at which time 1989 renewals will be due). All 1988 members will receive all these publications automatically as they appear without having to request them.

We apologize to our non-U.S. members for the surface mailing of the spring, 1988, newsletter, due to an error made by the mailing firm charged with the job. Ironically, this same issue contained the notice that the journal is now being airmailed to non-U.S. members worldwide, and that the newsletter always has been airmailed.

We regret the resulting delay in the receipt of the spring issue, which took up to 2 months in some cases. Our publications may be very late in coming out, but the least we can do once they are out is send them to our members abroad by the fastest means possible.

Thank you all for your patience and support.

J. Richard Greenwell  
Editor

"Most ignorance is vincible ignorance. We don't know because we don't want to know."

Aldous Huxley

"The avoidance of taxes is the only intellectual pursuit that still carries any reward."

John Maynard Keynes



## GORILLAS REDISCOVERED IN NIGERIA

In the mid-19th century, a startling discovery was made in Central Africa. The terrible and fearsome manlike monsters said by natives to inhabit the equatorial rain forests turned out to be real.

Today, we know the gorilla to be far more gentle than its physique originally seemed to convey--and still does to many African villagers. The relatively recent discovery of this, the largest of all the primates, is now all but forgotten. However, there is a second and perhaps even more startling twist to the story. In 1901, the mountain gorilla, known only to the natives of what is now Rwanda, was made known to the world.

This even larger ape, now recognized as a subspecies, had remained quite unknown to Western science or even to European hunters and administrative officials, despite their having "colonized" all of Africa. Even the great Victorian explorer Henry Stanley, who had passed through the area decades before, had had no knowledge of them.

Now, a third chapter in the saga has been revealed. Lowland gorillas, representing the same subspecies discovered in the mid-19th century, have been rediscovered in the West African country of Nigeria, where they have been believed extinct since the 1950's.

Nigeria is the most industrialized and most populous country in Africa, with 110 million people, almost one-fifth the entire population of the continent. Even so, gorillas have survived, unnoticed by Western man--and Western science--but not by local villagers. And not just a few dozen gorillas, but maybe hundreds of them. A census undertaken in the spring of 1988 has tracked several bands, totaling about

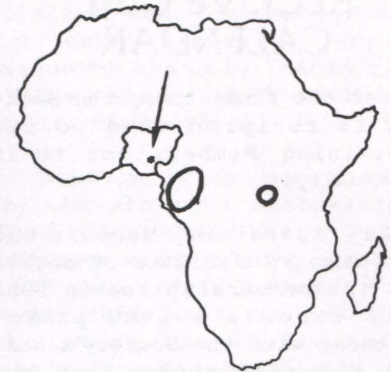
150 individuals, and there could be more bands not yet detected.

The primatologists who verified the native rumors are now concerned that the rediscovered Nigerian gorillas may not survive an onslaught of deforestation and hunting. The fate of the gorillas may rest in the hands of the villagers of Kanyang, who claim ownership of the nearby montane forests where the gorillas have successfully hidden for decades.

Rather than hunt the gorillas for meat (representing about \$200 per animal), which could eventually decimate them, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation has proposed to the 700 villagers that they exploit the touristic potential that the gorillas represent, resulting in a greater benefit for both man and gorilla in the long run. The example of the economic benefits resulting from "gorilla tourism" in Rwanda has not gone unnoticed in Nigeria.

As a consequence, the village has taken the unusual step of protecting the gorillas rather than hunting them. To ensure this protection, the Foundation has hired two highly qualified villagers as wardens: the two most skillful gorilla hunters around, Jacob Osang and Napoleon Mkpe.

And, it seems, the wardens, proud of their new responsibility, are enforcing the hunting ban. Four village poachers have already been caught, resulting in heavy fines and loss of firearms. Osang and Mkpe are now said to be looking at gorillas in a new light, observing and enjoying their behavior--and their docility. "We want people to come here to look at the gorillas," stated Mkpe. "The gorillas don't hear gunshots in the mountains as before," stated Osang. "They must be wondering what is happening."



Nigeria outlined on a map of Africa, with a star marking approximate location of newly discovered gorillas. Circled areas show locations of known lowland (left) and highland (right) gorilla distributions.

Other villages are now instituting hunting bans, and there is talk of the possible creation by the Nigerian government of a 300 square-mile national park to protect the gorillas and their habitat.

The rediscovery of Nigerian gorillas is magnificent news for conservationists. It is also good news for cryptozoology. If hundreds of gorillas could survive decades undetected by Western science in such a highly populated country as Nigeria, what other wonders may lurk in the more inaccessible regions of Central Africa? □

"In recent years, however, it has become fairly clear that affluence may also be an obstacle: too many dollars may chase too few ideas. Admittedly, even under such adverse circumstances, progress can be achieved. But the spirit of science is in danger. Big Science may destroy great science, and the publication explosion may kill ideas: ideas, which are only too rare, may become submerged in the flood. The danger is very real."

Sir Karl Popper  
"The Rationality of Scientific Revolutions," in Scientific Revolutions (Ian Hacking, ed.), Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1981.



## ISC DONORS RECEIVE GIFT CALENDAR

For the first time, the Society is reciprocating to its Sustaining Members for their generosity.

All Sustaining Members who have donated a minimum of double the \$25 membership fee in 1988 will receive a 1989 pocket calendar with the Society's name and address embossed on the cover. These calendars were obtained at very low cost through the efforts of an ISC member, making them nice gifts for those who have helped the Society.

Those who have already sent in donations of \$25 or more for 1988 have by now received these 1989 pocket calendars. Those who would like to help the Society in this way--and receive the pocket calendars--may still do so through February 28, the end of the Society's fiscal year. All donations received through that date will be considered for 1988. Members who previously sent in smaller donations need only make up the difference. Those who may have lost track of exactly how much they have already donated for 1988 may write or call the Secretariat for this information.

All members (especially those who have already contributed something and may already be close to the \$25 minimum) are encouraged to help the Society in this way. All Sustaining Members, even those who contribute less, will, of course, be listed in the winter, 1988, newsletter. American members are also reminded that all donations to the Society are tax-deductible. □

"A hen is only an egg's way—  
of making another egg."

Samuel Butler  
*Life and Habit*, VIII

## MEMBERSHIP DUES TO INCREASE

For the first time since the Society was founded in 1982, the Board of Directors has decided to increase annual membership dues, which will rise from US\$25 to \$30 in 1989. Joint memberships will rise from \$30 to \$35.

This modest increase after 7 years of existence became necessary due to increased operating costs, particularly recent hikes in postal rates. The Board did not wish to raise dues exorbitantly--out of the reach of many prospective members--and any future increases will also be modest.

Members should note that the cost of purchasing back publications is also increasing, at a corresponding rate. Back issues of the journal will go from \$15 to \$18, and back issues of the newsletter from \$2.50 to \$3.00. These rates will go into effect for new members on January 1, 1989. However, for existing members only, the old rates will remain in effect until February 28, 1989.

Now is an opportune time for members to order all those back issues they have wanted--at the old rates--and they are encouraged to do so promptly, or at least before the March 1 rate increase. This can represent, for example, a savings of \$30 for those buying complete back sets (1982-1987) of both the journal and newsletter.

All back issues of both publications are still available. Payment is required in advance, and prices include postage. Members who would first like to examine back order forms, which list all previous publications with individual article titles, may request them by writing or calling the Secretariat.

The back publications are:

-Cryptozoology,  
Vols. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

-The ISC Newsletter,  
Vol. 1, issues 1, 2, 3, 4;  
Vol. 2, issues 1, 2, 3, 4;  
Vol. 3, issues 1, 2, 3, 4;  
Vol. 4, issues 1, 2, 3, 4;  
Vol. 5, issues 1, 2, 3, 4;  
Vol. 6, issues 1, 2, 3, 4.

Note to British members: unless serious disruptions occur with the current dollar-pound exchange rate, membership for those wishing to pay in pounds sterling will increase from £15 to £18 (£18 to £21 for joint members). The cost of back issues will increase from £9 to £11 for the journal and £1.50 to £1.75 for the newsletter.

British members who wish to pay in dollars -- at the dollar rates given above -- may, of course, do so. Pound payments should be made to the ISC Secretariat for Europe (see note in the Spring newsletter), and dollar payments directly to the Arizona Secretariat. □

## CRYPTOLETTERS

To the Editor:

In line with the the recent excellent review on the Himalayan Yeti (*Newsletter*, Winter, 1986), I would like to inform other members of a project to preserve a significant bit of cryptozoological history.

I am conducting extensive

research on the 1956-1962 expeditions sponsored by Thomas Baker Slick, Jr., and F. Kirk Johnson, Sr., to the Himalayas and the Pacific Northwest. The Slick-Johnson expeditions, especially those in pursuit of the Yeti in Nepal, represented extensive cryptozoological field work.

Any personal information, archival material, photographic records, and/or technical data



concerning these expeditions would be greatly appreciated. Any details on the other expeditions that Slick conducted elsewhere around the world would also be welcome. Assistance will be acknowledged in a forthcoming book on the subject, as well as in a future article to be submitted to Cryptozoology. Confidentiality as to source of information will be respected if so requested. I may be reached at 124 Ocean Ave., Portland, Maine 04103.

Loren Coleman  
Portland, Maine, U.S.A.

To the Editor:

Leaving aside my own feelings on the subject of killing cryptozoological creatures, I was disturbed to read of Grover Krantz's procedure for shooting a Sasquatch specimen while driving at night on minor roads in the Pacific Northwest (see Interview, Newsletter, Summer, 1987).

If one accepts Robert Takaroff's point (Cryptoletters, Newsletter, Autumn, 1984) that at least some Bigfoot sightings may be of hoaxers wearing costumes, then this attempt by Dr. Krantz to shoot a Sasquatch could well result in the death of an innocent practical joker in a King Kong suit.

Indeed, it is not inconceivable that the publication of the plan might in itself provide stimulus for some would-be Pilt-downer to deliberately set up a nocturnal encounter with the unwitting Dr. Krantz. Even an anthropologist might be misled as to the true nature of an object on the basis of a brief glimpse in a vehicle's headlights, and if the hoaxer's act was good enough to tempt Dr. Krantz to use his rifle, the consequences might be very serious for hoaxer and hoaxed alike.

All things considered, Dr.

Krantz might be better off if he disposed of his rifle and invested in a camera--a much safer cryptozoological tool for all concerned.

Alastair Boyd  
Southend-on-Sea, Essex,  
England, U.K.

To the Editor:

The interview with Grover Krantz (Newsletter, Summer, 1987) was fascinating. I admire him for continuing his Sasquatch research in the face of such adversity from establishment science.

I wish him the best of luck in acquiring a specimen with his I-R imager. Failing this, I reluctantly have to agree with him that shooting a specimen dead would be necessary to prove the animal's existence. It would be better to kill just one individual in order to prove the existence of the species, than for extinction to occur while the debate raged on.

Incidentally, I was also very pleased with the article "The Tabloids That Time Forgot" in that same issue. Such tabloid publications do considerable damage not only to this field, but to other fields on the borderlines of accepted science. Reasonably intelligent people probably won't take such publications seriously anyway, but it was nice to see them exposed.

Jeffrey Fisher  
Lake Toxaway, North Carolina,  
U.S.A.

To the Editor:

This concerns opinions appearing in previous articles and interviews in the newsletter to the effect that Sasquatch should be hunted and shot.

Curiously, I have never read of views encouraging hunters to kill a Nessie, or a Champ, or a Mokele-Mbembe. Why this mysterious double standard? Why is Sasquatch the only loudly proclaimed and coveted candidate for the killing?

"Because it is not human," say the pro-kill enthusiasts. ("Isn't it possible to eat a hamburger without being a cannibal?" asks Grover Krantz.) Following this logic, as nobody is advocating the killing of a Nessie or a Mokele-Mbembe, are we to assume it is because they are human?

In short, why is the old adage "the end justifies the means," applied only to bipedal, human-like cryptids? I have a hypothesis to explain the phenomenon, and I would like to check it against other readers' responses. I therefore encourage all readers with an opinion to express their views.

Dmitri Bayanov  
Relict Hominoid Research Seminar  
Darwin Museum  
Moscow, U.S.S.R.

To the Editor:

I teach courses in biology teachers' methods in the science department of our institution, and am concerned with their ability to distinguish pseudoscience. For this reason, I use examples of situations that move from unaccepted scientific status to full scientific recognition...bird anting, ball lighting, etc. Many of the cases in your publications provide current cases "in transition." Along with The Skeptical Inquirer, your journal should be part of the preparation of all science teachers.

John Richard Schrock  
Director, Biology Education  
Division of Biological Sciences  
Emporia State University  
Emporia, Kansas, U.S.A.



## WOOD'S ANIMAL FACTS

The world's heaviest raptor (bird of prey) is the Andean condor (Vultur gryphus), which ranges from western Venezuela southwards to Tierra del Fuego and Patagonia. Adult males and females scale 23-24 lb (10.4-10.9 kg) and 17-22 lb (7.7-10 kg) respectively.

One old male shot on San Gallen Island off the coast of Peru c. 1919 weighed 26 lb 8 oz (12 kg) (Murphy 1925). In October, 1965, a weight of 11 kg (24 lb 4 oz) was reported for an Andean condor named Friedrich at the Frankfurt Zoo, West Germany, but the bird (hatched in 1959) was only 18 lb 6 oz (8.3 kg) at the time of its death on February 24, 1971.

The almost extinct California Condor (Vultur californianus) ...is not quite as large as its South American cousin, and rarely exceeds 20 lb (9.1 kg). The heaviest bird collected by Stephens (1895) scaled 21 lb 8 oz (9.8 kg), and Hensahw (1920)

quotes a weight of 23 lb (10.4 kg) for another specimen.

Three other examples (all males) formerly in the private collection of E.B. Towne, Jr., and now in the California Academy of Sciences, reportedly weighed 27 lb (12.3 kg), 29 lb (13.2 kg), and 31 lb (14.1 kg) respectively, but Carl B. Koford (1953), the leading authority on this species, believes Towne may have obtained these figures second-hand from the men who collected the birds for him. Certainly, it is difficult to believe that this species could ever outweigh the heaviest Andean condor.

The heaviest eagle in the world--and the most formidable--is the harpy eagle (Harpia harpyja), which ranges from southern Mexico to eastern Bolivia, southern Brazil, and northern Argentina. Very little weight data has been published for this forest-dwelling species, but adult females

(males are much smaller) average about 16-17 lb (7.3-7.7 kg).

Stanley Brock, former manager of the vast Dadanawa cattle ranch in Guyana, once owned an enormous female called Jezebel, which tipped the scales at 27 lb (12.3 kg), and this probably represents the upper weight limit for a bird of prey that needs to glide and dodge through branches with great dexterity when hunting monkeys. The Philippine (monkey-eating) eagle (Pithecopaga jefferyi)...is only fractionally smaller, although no weights are available for adult females. Adult males of both species average 10-11 lb (4.5-5 kg).

The huge Steller's sea eagle (Haliaeetus pelagicus) of northeast Siberia is also of comparable size, adult females weighing 6.8-9 kg (15-19 lb).

Abstracted from:

The Guinness Book of Animal Facts and Feats, by Gerald L. Wood, Guinness Superlatives, Enfield, U.K. (3rd ed.), 1982

*Honorary Members:* Andre Capart (Belgium); Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer (South Africa); John Green (Canada); The Lord Hunt of Llanfair Waterdine (U.K.); Marie-Jeanne Koffmann (U.S.S.R.); Ingo Krumbiegel (Federal German Republic); Theodore Monod (France); Sir Peter Scott (U.K.); Robert Titmus (Canada).

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